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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6639

BILL NUMBER: SB 334

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 29, 2008

BILL AMENDED: Jan 28, 2008

SUBJECT: Severe Weather Warning Sirens.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Waltz

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *County Responsibilities.* The bill requires each county to prepare and submit to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) a severe weather warning siren coverage report not later than June 1, 2010. The report must (1) identify all existing and planned sirens in the county; (2) identify all areas in the county that are not within the range of an existing or a planned siren; and (3) include a recommendation as to the county's need for any additional sirens. Each county that is issued an order to submit a plan must (1) adopt and submit to the DHS a siren coverage plan not later than May 1, 2011; and (2) adopt a siren coverage fee ordinance not later than June 1, 2011. The county must apportion the cost of a new siren between a planned development and existing dwelling units and buildings that will be covered by the siren; and subtract the amount apportioned to existing dwelling units and buildings from the fee imposed on a builder. A siren coverage fee ordinance takes effect on January 1, 2012.

DHS Responsibilities. The DHS must do the following not later than December 1, 2010: (1) review each county's report; (2) prepare a comprehensive map of Indiana that shows the location of each existing and planned siren identified by the counties; and (3) for each county that the DHS determines has one or more areas not covered by a siren, issue an order requiring the county to submit a siren coverage plan and adopt a siren coverage fee ordinance. DHS must adopt certain rules not later than January 1, 2010.

Siren Coverage Fee. A siren coverage fee is to be imposed on a builder that proposes a development in an area of the county not covered by a siren. The fee is to be used to defray the capital costs incurred to acquire and install any sirens needed to provide coverage for areas in the county not covered by a siren.

Severe Weather Warning Siren Fund. Each county must establish a severe weather warning siren fund into which the siren coverage fees are to be deposited. A separate account must be established within the fund

for each area identified in the county's siren coverage plan as requiring one or more sirens. Money in the account is continuously appropriated to the appropriate infrastructure agency in the area for which the account is established for use by the agency in acquiring and installing sirens.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *DHS Responsibilities.* The bill requires DHS to draft technical rules, review 92 siren coverage reports, prepare a comprehensive map of existing and proposed siren locations in the state, determine whether each county has provided adequate siren coverage, and serve as a consultant to the counties as they prepare siren coverage reports and plans. The DHS may require additional staff. If a program manager was hired to oversee the program, annual costs would equal \$50,000. Additional administrative staff may be needed initially to establish the program.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions. For FY 2007, DHS reverted \$2.5 M to the state General Fund.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *County Responsibilities.* The bill will increase administrative expenses for counties. The expense will vary by county and will depend on existing structures and practices. A siren that is able to project 1½ miles in each direction costs approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000. Some counties already require developers to install certain warning devices. (Additional information will be provided when it becomes available.)

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DHS.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties.

Information Sources: DHS, Association of Indiana Counties.

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